

# GORE CREATED BIG SENSATION

Senator Told How He Had Been  
Approached and Offered a  
Bribe of \$50,000.

PROMINENT NAMES INVOLVED

Congressman Creager Supplemented  
His Testimony—Hamon Flatly  
Denied Charge.

Muskogee, Okla., Aug. 4.—What hap-  
pened in the private office of United  
States Senator Thomas P. Gore at  
Washington at noon on May 6 last,  
formed the basis of sensational charges  
involving the names of Vice President  
Sherman, Senator Charles Curtis of  
Kansas, Congressman B. S. McGuire of  
Oklahoma and others, in a hearing be-  
fore a special congressional investiga-  
tory committee here today.

During a conference held in that of-  
fice, Senator Gore testified he had been  
approached by Jake L. Hamon, former  
chairman of the Oklahoma territorial  
Republican committee, and also former  
chairman of the Oklahoma state Re-  
publican central committee, and said  
that he had been offered a bribe of  
\$50,000 or \$60,000 to remove certain  
legislation pending in Congress so that  
\$100,000 might be paid to J. F. Mc-  
Murray, an attorney of McAlester, Okla.,  
and his associates.

The money was to represent "attor-  
ney's fees" of 10 per cent on \$500,000  
which was to be secured from a New  
York syndicate for 400,000 acres of coal  
and asphalt land now owned by the  
Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in  
this state.

SHERMAN'S NAME MENTIONED

Vice President Sherman's name was  
mentioned by Mr. Hamon, Senator Gore  
testified, as being "interested" in the  
deal to the extent of favoring the  
approval of the McMurray contracts with  
the Indians.

What happened in another private  
room in Washington and also where, it  
was alleged, Hamon made more "over-  
tures" was told by Congressman C. E.  
Creager of the Third Oklahoma dis-  
trict. Congressman Creager supple-  
mented the testimony of Senator Gore.

He said that on last June 16 he had  
been invited by Hamon to meet him in  
a private room at the Occidental hotel  
in Washington.

Having gone there, Mr. Creager testi-  
fied, he was informed he could have a  
"substantial interest" in the land deal  
if he would withdraw his opposition to  
the approval of the McMurray con-  
tracts by Congress.

Asked the question, "Were any fig-  
ures mentioned as to how much you  
were to receive?" Mr. Creager replied:  
"No, I did not let it go so far as  
that. I made it plain I was not open  
to be influenced in that way."

He had already gone on record as be-  
ing firmly opposed to the granting of  
such an enormous fee to attorneys.

Congressman McGuire of Oklahoma,  
who was charged by Senator Gore as  
being "interested" in the McMurray  
contract, was said by Mr. Creager, in  
his testimony, to have been, at the time  
of his visit, an occupant of the same  
suite of rooms with Hamon and Mc-  
Murray at the hotel.

Words of Senator Gore testified to

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Signature of *Dr. J. C. Hatcher*

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Twenty-five copies of this coupon and twenty-five cents entitles the  
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**The Deseret News**



**FRED LOVES KATE  
KATE LOVES FRED.  
HUSLER'S  
FLOUR  
MAKES GOOD BREAD**

having been invited by McMurray and  
Hamon to "frog leg" supper at Wash-  
ington, at which the Indian contracts  
were to be "talked over." These invita-  
tions, it was declared, were all "turned  
down."

On one occasion, one of the clerks  
testified, Hamon said Senator Gore was  
"awfully hard on his friends."

Sensor Gore, in his testimony, as-  
serted that the offer of bribery went  
so far that Hamon said the \$25,000 or  
\$50,000 would not be paid over in the  
form of a check or marked money, but  
that "it would be all clean, hard cash."

The committee that heard the  
charges was appointed by resolution of  
the house of representatives to in-  
vestigate the McMurray contracts,  
which are declared to have been made  
by McMurray individually with 10,000  
Indians, each of whom agreed to turn  
over 10 per cent of their profit from  
the sale of their land, provided the con-  
tracts were approved by Congress.

The committee, headed by Congress-  
man Charles H. Burke of South Dak-  
ota, chairman, is composed of Con-  
gressman Philip P. Campbell of Kan-  
sas, Charles B. Miller of Minnesota,  
John J. Stevens of Texas, and E. W.  
Saunders of Virginia. Its initial ses-  
sion was held today.

Congressman Creager's appearance  
on the witness stand followed a series  
of sensational statements. Among Sen-  
ator Gore's assertions were the fol-  
lowing:

**GORE'S ASSERTIONS.**  
That Hamon told him that a man  
"higher up" in the government was  
interested in the approval of the con-  
tracts, and that, therefore, there was  
no reason why Senator Gore should not  
be; that when asked who was the man  
higher up, Hamon had replied the  
vice president.

That Hamon told him Senator  
Curtis of Kansas was "interested" in  
the deal.

That Hamon told him Congress-  
man McGuire of Oklahoma was "in-  
terested" in the deal.

That Hamon told him an employee  
of the department of justice at Wash-  
ington was "interested" in the deal; that  
he (Senator Gore) knew the name of  
the employee but would not divulge his  
name or the name of his informant, es-  
pecially because the latter would lose  
his position.

That former Senator Long of Kan-  
sas, acting as counsel for McMurray,  
had gone to President Taft on April  
23 to urge the approval of the con-  
tracts, but that the president had said  
"it would take a good deal of argu-  
ment to convince him that the amount  
of the fee asked by McMurray was  
justified."

Sensor Curtis today sent a tele-  
gram to the committee denying that  
he was in any way interested in the  
contracts and offering to appear  
before the committee.

Burke said Senator Curtis would be  
subpoenaed to testify.

An account of that part of Senator  
Gore's testimony referring to Vice-  
President Sherman follows:

Mr. Burke: "In your conversation  
with Mr. Hamon, you stated he named

a very high official that he said was  
interested in these contracts. You  
omitted his name."

Mr. Gore: "I say again that I should  
very much prefer not to name him. I  
am, however, subject to the will of the  
committee."

Mr. Burke: "The committee is here  
to get the facts and we must have all  
of this conversation."

Mr. Gore: "He suggested that Vice-  
President Sherman was interested in  
the contracts."

Thomas H. Owen, counsel for Mr.  
Gore: "In that connection you spoke  
of an article appearing in a Kansas City  
newspaper that two gentlemen had  
called on the president. I wish you  
would say who was mentioned in that  
article."

Mr. Gore: "In the newspaper of  
April 14, Vice President Sherman and  
Senator Curtis were named as hav-  
ing called to discuss the segregation of  
coal and asphalt lands. I think before  
the senate met the next day the in-  
formation came to me."

Sensor Gore explained he believed  
Vice-President Sherman was favor-  
able to the contracts and a short time  
later he introduced a resolution in the  
senate that would require further ac-  
tion of Congress before the contracts  
could be approved.

**CREAGER MET HAMON.**  
Congressman Creager did not take  
the stand until late in the day.

Asked if he had ever met Hamon, he  
replied: "Yes, I met him by appoint-  
ment in his room at the Occidental  
hotel in Washington. He invited me  
there, saying he wanted to talk over  
a little matter. At that time efforts  
were being made to have the presi-  
dent approve the McMurray contracts.  
I already had gone on record as being  
opposed to their approval. Well, when  
I was got to the hotel and sitting in  
a room with Hamon he began to urge  
me to withdraw my opposition. He  
suggested I might have an interest in  
the contracts."

Congressman Miller: "Were any  
figures mentioned? Did he say how  
much interest you might have?"

Mr. Creager: "No, I did not let it  
go as far as that. I made my lan-  
guage pretty emphatic that I was op-  
posed to the contracts and I would be  
influenced."

Congressman Stephens: "You mean  
to say that you regarded the offer of  
such a character as to arouse your  
indignation?"

Mr. Creager: "Yes; that's it. I re-  
garded it as an offer to influence my  
attitude towards the contracts. It was  
even suggested that I call together all  
the officials I could and defeat the  
movement opposing the approval of the  
bills."

Congressman Miller: "What kind of  
rooms did Mr. Hamon and Mr. Mc-  
Murray have at the hotel?"

Mr. Creager: "Oh, three or four  
front rooms. Representative McGuire  
of Oklahoma occupied part of the  
Hamon and McGuire suite. I met  
Hamon later at different times. When  
he heard I was coming to testify be-  
fore this committee he urged me not  
to. He expressed the hope that I  
would make no statement before this  
committee."

**GORE RECALLED.**  
Recalled to the stand, Senator Gore  
was asked to mention the name of the  
employee of the department of justice  
who had told him that another em-  
ployee, or an official in that depart-  
ment, was interested in the contracts.

"I could not do," replied Sen-  
ator Gore. "The matter was imparted  
to me in confidence and I regret that  
it was mentioned here at all."

"Now, senator," interposed Con-  
gressman Campbell, "do you think it  
unfair to go so far before this com-  
mittee and yet not tell us who you  
know we are here to learn the  
truth, and we would like to have all  
of it made known?"

"I would rather not. It is well  
known that heretofore employees of  
that department have lost their posi-  
tions for giving information, and I  
would rather that feature of the in-  
vestigation be dropped."

A. P. Phil, attorney for the Choctaw  
tribe of Indians, then questioned  
the senator as to what he knew of  
President Taft's attitude toward the  
McMurray contracts.

"I think some people interested in  
the contracts went to see the presi-  
dent on April 23," said the witness.

"The president said," he added, "that  
Senator Long had already submitted  
the matter to him and that Mr.  
Long's clerk (meaning the McMurray  
interests), might have their day in  
court. I think the president said  
everybody might have his day in  
court, but that it would take a good  
deal of argument to convince him  
that the amount of fees asked for in  
the contracts (\$5,000,000) was just.  
In fact, I think the president made  
it plain he was opposed to the con-  
tracts."

**HAMON AND GORE FRIENDS.**  
Senator Gore testified that he and  
Hamon had been friends and had  
been interested together in business  
transactions at McAlester, Okla., in  
which money loans were invested. Mr.  
Hamon is an attorney of Lawton,  
which is Senator Gore's home town.  
Hamon is 37 years old and married.  
Aside from Republican chairmanship,  
he has been city attorney of Lawton,  
and has practiced law in Kansas,  
Oklahoma and Texas.

**CAUSE OF OPPOSITION.**  
Explaining what led up to his op-  
posing the approval of the contracts  
with the Indians, Senator Gore, in his  
testimony, asserted that as far back as  
1905 he wrote a letter to Senator La-  
Follette calling attention to the great  
wealth of the coal and asphalt lands  
owned by the Indians. He said the  
United States geological survey had  
estimated the mineral deposits to be  
worth \$10,000,000.

In 1905, he said, McMurray had ob-  
tained contracts with the tribes of In-  
dians for the sale of the lands on a  
10 per cent basis. In 1908 President  
Roosevelt had registered his disap-  
proval of the contracts. In the same  
year Mr. McMurray obtained contracts  
individually with 10,000 Indians, there-  
being at that time no law against the  
execution of contracts with individ-  
ual Indians. It was this condition  
that aroused him to introduce a resolu-  
tion in Congress declaring that all In-  
dian contracts must be approved by  
Congress before they became valid.

"McMurray then came to my office,"  
said the senator. "I told him I had  
no objection to just attorneys' fees,  
but I thought 10 per cent on land val-  
ued by the government at \$10,000,000  
certainly was too high. Also I said 10  
per cent on \$20,000,000 was too high,  
as I was informed a New York syn-  
dicate was ready to pay the latter  
amount for the lands. I said I saw  
no reason why the Indians should pay  
attorneys' fees in this instance at all,  
since the government by treaty al-  
ready had agreed to dispose of the  
land and give the Indians the full  
profit. I wrote letters to the presi-  
dent and to various other officials de-  
scribing what I called an attempt to  
plunder and rob these Indians.

"A great many interests were at  
work in promoting the contracts. The  
first I knew that former Senator Long  
was acting in behalf of McMurray was  
one day when I walked into the of-  
fice of Secretary Ballinger. I began  
to protest against the contracts, and  
was told not to talk so loud, as Mr.  
Long was present and he was interest-  
ed in them.

"On last May 5, my bill holding up  
the Indian contracts was reported  
out of the committee favorably, the  
report being submitted by Senator  
Hughes of Colorado. The very next  
day McMurray came to me and asked  
me to have Mr. Hughes not to press  
the measure. I told him I would press  
it. I have been pressing it ever since."

**WHAT McMURRAY SAYS.**  
Mr. McMurray in an interview said:

## Bishops Doane and Greer For Unity of Churches.



[Bishop Doane and Bishop Greer.]

The Christian Unity foundation has been incorporated by twenty-four  
men, all members of the Protestant Episcopal church, twelve lay and twelve  
clerical, with the avowed intention of welding all Christian denominations  
into one organic religious body. The second paragraph of the articles of in-  
corporation of the foundation says: "The purpose for which this corporation is  
formed is to promote Christian unity at home and throughout the world; to  
this end to gather and disseminate accurate information relative to the faith  
and works of all Christian bodies; to set forth the great danger of our un-  
happy divisions and the waste of spiritual energy due thereto; to devise and  
suggest practical methods of co-operation, subsidizing comity for rivalry in  
the propagation of the common faith; to bring together all who are laboring  
in the same field, and this in the belief that full knowledge of one another  
will emphasize our actual membership in the one body of Christ and our com-  
mon agreement in the essentials of faith; that, finally, by the operation of the  
spirit of God, the various Christian bodies may be knit together in more evi-  
dent unity in the essentials of faith and practice and in one organic life. "So  
we, being many, are one body in Christ and every one members one of an-  
other." Bishop Frederick Courtney, rector of St. James' church, New York,  
is president of the foundation, and the vice presidents are Bishop William  
Crowell Doane of Albany, Bishop Boyd Vincent of southern Ohio, Bishop  
C. P. Anderson of Chicago, Bishop E. S. Lines of Newark, Bishop David H.  
Greer of New York, Robert Fulton Cutting, Rear Admiral Caspar F. Good-  
rich, Colonel Charles William Larned, U. S. A.; George Wharton Pepper of  
Philadelphia and John H. Stiness, former chief justice of Rhode Island. The  
Rev. Dr. Arthur Lowndes is secretary and George Gordon King treasurer.

"I have never approached any one in  
this matter except upon its merits. I  
took the contracts in good faith. I be-  
lieve they are legitimate and the com-  
pensation is not too great. Practically  
all the Indians in the Choctaw and  
Chickasaw nations want their land  
sold."

"I do not know anything about the  
incident of which Senator Gore and  
Congressman Creager spoke. I have  
gone to them many times, but I went  
to them in person and did not send an  
agent."

References to invitations to "frog-  
leg" banquets and to assertions by  
Hamon that Senator Gore was "going  
back on his friends" were made in the  
testimony of D. F. Gore, private secre-  
tary and brother to Senator Gore.

D. F. Gore said that he was in his  
brother's private office at noon on May  
6 when Hamon appeared.

"I stepped into an adjoining office  
and left the senator and Hamon alone,  
except that once in a while I went in  
and out. When they quit talking, in  
about 30 or 40 minutes, Hamon came  
back to my room. Well, he said:  
"Dick, the senator is getting awfully  
hard on his friends. I want to make  
a lot of money, Dick, and I don't care  
how I make it."

"I didn't know then what they had  
been talking about, but when Hamon  
left the senator said he had been talk-  
ing about the McMurray contracts, and  
Hamon had offered him \$25,000. The  
senator said Hamon offered to increase  
the amount. That's all that was said  
to me about the matter at that time.  
Later McMurray came to me and said  
he was sure that Senator Gore did not  
understand those contracts and wished  
he knew of some way of making him  
understand. He invited me to the ho-  
tel to talk it over, so I could tell the  
senator what he was talking about. If  
I would attend a frog-leg banquet which  
he was arranging, I declined all of  
these invitations."

**STENOGRAPHER THOMPSON.**  
J. Leroy Thompson, stenographer to  
Senator Gore, testified he also was in  
and out of the senator's room when  
Hamon was present. He, too, was in-  
vited to those "frog-leg" banquets, he  
said, but declined.

Congressman Campbell—How long  
were the senator and Hamon at con-  
ference together?

Thompson—About 30 or 40 minutes.  
When Hamon came out I overheard  
him say he wanted to make a lot of  
money and he did not care how he  
made it."

"No, I did not. Usually when Hamon  
called I heard everything that was  
said. There never before had been an  
effort to conceal it. But this time it  
was different."

"In what way was it different? Did  
Hamon act differently?"

"Yes; he appeared not to want to say  
anything but to Senator Gore, who was  
which was quite opposite from his usual  
manner."

That the Choctaw Indians, who had  
protested against giving 10 per cent at-  
torney fees to Senator Gore, had been  
asked to rescind their action formed  
the substance of testimony by W. A.  
Durant, a Choctaw Indian and a mem-  
ber of the Oklahoma legislature.

Durant said that at a Choctaw coun-  
cil meeting a resolution had been  
passed against the McMurray con-  
tracts. Later, he said, a number of  
persons had gone into the Choctaw  
nation urging the Indians to sign a  
petition declaring themselves in favor  
of the contracts, but most of his tribe,  
he asserted, maintained their position.

Hamon tonight declined to dis-  
cuss Senator Gore's charges and said he  
would not make any statement except  
in response to categorical questions.  
The following questions in an interview  
were put to him:

**HAMON DENIES OFFER.**  
"Did you offer a bribe to Senator  
Gore?"

"I did not."

"Did you offer to give him an interest  
in the McMurray contracts?"

"I did not."

"Did you offer to bribe Congressman  
Creager?"

"I did not."

"Did you offer him an interest in the  
McMurray contracts?"

"I did not."

"Did you mention to Senator Gore,  
or to anyone else, that Vice President  
Sherman was interested in the approval  
of the McMurray contracts?"

"I never mentioned such a thing to  
anyone."

"Did you say Senator Curtis was in-  
terested in the McMurray contracts?"

"I did not."

"Are you yourself interested in the

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bone and muscle.  
Made from the  
finest hard kernel  
wheat.  
Ask Your Grocer.

Salt Lake & Los Angeles Railway Co.

**Saltair Beach Time Table**

Trains	Trains
Leave Salt Lake	Arrive Salt Lake
9:30 a.m.	11:45 a.m.
12:15 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.	3:15 p.m.
2:45 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m.	4:45 p.m.
4:15 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
5:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.	7:45 p.m.
7:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
8:45 p.m.	10:00 p.m.
9:30 p.m.	10:45 p.m.
10:15 p.m.	11:30 p.m.

\*Except Sunday.  
Fare round trip, 25 cents.

**Denver & Rio Grande R. R.**

**TIME TABLE.**  
(In Effect June 1st, 1910.)

**DEPART—DAILY.**

Provo, Mantel and Marysville..... 7:50 a.m.

Bingham and Midvale..... 8:00 a.m.

Denver, Chicago and East..... 8:10 a.m.

Park City..... 8:20 a.m.

Ogden and Intermediate Points..... 8:30 a.m.

Ogden and San Francisco..... 1:45 p.m.

Ogden, San Francisco and Port..... 2:25 p.m.

Land..... 2:30 p.m.

Ogden, San Francisco and Port..... 2:50 p.m.

Midvale and Bingham East..... 2:50 p.m.

Denver, Chicago and East..... 4:05 p.m.

Provo, Mantel and Intermediate..... 4:05 p.m.

Points..... 4:05 p.m.

Ogden and Intermediate Points..... 6:10 p.m.

Denver, Chicago and East..... 6:10 p.m.

Ogden and Intermediate Points..... 6:10 p.m.

ate Points..... 7:20 p.m.

Ogden, San Francisco and Port..... 7:20 p.m.

Land..... 7:20 p.m.

Ogden, San Francisco and Port..... 7:20 p.m.

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